

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PC1/GB2004/001293

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C04B35/50 H01M8/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C04B H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 000 913 A (EIDGENOESS TECH HOCHSCHULE) 17 May 2000 (2000-05-17) cited in the application figures 1,2,7,8	25-33
X	EP 1 254 862 A (AIR PROD & CHEM) 6 November 2002 (2002-11-06) examples 2,6-11	25-33
X	OISHI N. ET AL.: "Stainless Steel Supported Thick Film IT-SOFCs for Operation at 500 - 600 degree C" JOURNAL OF THE ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS, vol. 2002-21, 2002, pages 230-237, XP009032114 whole document, in particular p. 233 - 236 and figure 6	25-33
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *B* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 June 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/06/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	<p>WO 03/075382 A (CERES POWER LTD) 12 September 2003 (2003-09-12) page 5</p> <p>-----</p>	25-33

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 1-11(in part)

Present claims 1-11 relate to a method calculating the effective amount of divalent cations in any fabricated electrolyte. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only cerium-based electrolytes (see examples). There are no examples providing any teaching that the empirical formula used to determine the effective concentration of divalent cations in ceria -based electrolytes is also valid for other electrolytes. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the method claims 12-24, product claims 25-33 and claims 1-11 (in part), ie. restricted to a method of determining the effective concentration of divalent cations in a ceria-based fabricated electrolyte. Moreover, it was assumed that effective concentration is defined by the formula on page 6, 1.20.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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WO 03075382	A	12-09-2003	GB 2386126 A WO 03075382 A2 US 2003224234 A1	10-09-2003 12-09-2003 04-12-2003